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Mortality statistics, 1915. (Washington: Bureau of Census. 1917. Pp. 707.)

Ten years of work, 1907-1916. Report of work in reducing the infant death rate of New York City. (New York: New York Milk Committee. 1916. Pp. 38.)

Social Problems and Reforms

The Minimum Cost of Living. A Study of Families of Limited Income in New York City. By WINIFRED STUART GIBBS. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xv, 93. \$1.00.)

The subtitle of this useful book is: A Study of Families of Limited Income in New York City. It is an accurate laboratory contribution to family budget literature, of use to every student of social conditions. Further, it demonstrates the practicability of using the family budget as a lever to raise the living standards both of dependent and of independent families, and will, therefore, be of service to every social worker. Both the work done and this effective publication of the results are achievements of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, in full accord with its generally constructive policy in dealing with dependence.

Miss Gibbs for ten years has been in charge of this association's active Division of Home Economics. In this volume she presents, with grateful clarity and brevity of statement, a story of family budget making, carried on with detailed care, during the past two years, by seventy-five selected families on the dependent list of the association. All of these were families of widows, with children, to which the association was providing steady incomes.

These families were taught to keep classified expense accounts (the association developed, three years ago, a simple, practical family budget book for use by such families) that teachers of cooking and sewing might the better instruct them to make wise use of their limited incomes.

Miss Gibbs divides her story of these seventy-five family budgets into three parts. In part I, after telling of the method employed in making the study, she devotes a chapter to The Estimate of Minimum Requirement. Tabulated details of estimates to cover shelter, food, fuel and light, clothing and sundries, show the reader beyond any doubt that, as stated by the author, the estimates are on a "minimum basis—the lowest sum on which families could maintain health and working power" (p. xiv).

Part II tabulates the seventy-five expense accounts in detail, family by family, covering for each of the budget headings, estimate of needs, actual expenses, actual incomes and year's deficits or surpluses (pp. 31 to 45).

Part III states the results. It opens with a chapter which tells the condition of the families both before and after receiving steady income and instruction in its best use. Chapters follow, describing in some detail and with selected illustrative tables, the results with reference to housing, food, clothing, firing, lighting, and incidentals. This clear story of results convinces the reader not only that the trained staff of this association has made its budget method work among these dependent families, but also that Miss Gibbs is justified in her conclusion that this method might be applied with social gain to independent families. Miss Gibbs thus states this conclusion: "The intensive work described in these pages has shown that it would be well worth while for neighborhoods and communities to undertake systematic coöperation for the purpose of building for future strength. Every family that learns to attain its potential best, physical, mental and spiritual, is a strong power . . . Conservation of all resources among independent families reduces to a minimum the number on the verge of the so-called poverty line" (pp. 92-93).

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Vocational Education Survey of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Made by the NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION. Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Whole No. 199, December, 1916. Vocational Education Series, No. 1. (Washington: Superintendent of Documents. 1917. Pp. 592. 65 cents.)

Two special features distinguish the survey made by the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education in Minneapolis during 1915 and now available in a revised edition published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In the first place, the admirable policy has been established by this society of holding its annual convention in a city which agrees to conduct for its own benefit a vocational education survey in coöperation with the society. Mr. A. Lincoln Filene, of Boston, is the author of this fruitful idea. One result has been to focus the